

Remarks

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended in order to clarify reference to the native valve sinus cavity.

102 Rejection (Gabbay)

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 have been rejected based on Gabbay. The marked up attachment 1 to the April 19, 2005 Office Action is very helpful in understanding the Examiner's position as to the teaching of Gabbay. Claim 1 has been amended in order to refer to the single vertical element connecting the attachment window 60 to the anchoring structure. Such a configuration (as shown in Fig. 14) "allows inward deflection of the post at backflow pressure, thus providing cantilevered support to the valve" (page 28, paragraph 16, fourth sentence). No such structure is shown or suggested in Gabbay.

103 Rejection (Seguin and Myers)

Claims 1-2, 5 and 10-17 were rejected based on Seguin (US 2004/0093060A1) and Myers (US 2002/0052651A1). Neither Seguin nor Myers disclose cantilevered support for the valve as discussed above. Moreover, Myers is directed to a stentless valve (page 1, paragraphs 0013, 0014, 0015 and 0016, first sentence; Figs. 1-41). It is submitted that there is no suggestion or teaching in Seguin or Myers to combine their disclosures, given that Seguin is directed to a valve with a stent. Al-Site v. VSI Int'l, 174 F.3d 1308, 50 USPQ2d 1161 (Fed. Cir. 1999); MPEP 2143.01.

Allowance of claims 1-2, 5-6 and 9-17, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

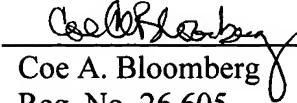
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Respectfully submitted,

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